

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

DOE-15 SAS-02 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11 /164 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 13540

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT: DISARMAMENT MATTERS: SWEDISH VIEWS

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 8 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH AMB. FISHER, SWEDISH UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MRS. THORSSON FOCUSSED PRIMARILY ON THE STATUS OF THE TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB) AND THE TIME-TABLE FOR MULTILATERAL CTB NEGOTIATIONS. IN PARTICULAR, SHE WAS INTERESTED IF A CTB DRAFT COULD BE CONSIDERED BY CCD BEFORE THE CONVENING OF THE EXPANDED COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CD) IN JANUARY. FISHER RESPONDED THAT, WHILE HE HOPED FOR SPEEDY PROGRESS IN TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, HE SERIOUSLY DOUBTED THAT THE SCHEDULE MRS. THORSSON HAD IN MIND COULD BE MET. THORSSON EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT OF SUCH A DELAY ON THE UNGA DISARMAMENT DELIBERATIONS, AS WELL AS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH OBSTRUCTIONISM IF CTB WERE HANDLED BY CD RATHER THAN CCD. IN CONNECTION WITH THE LATTER POINT, SHE SAID THAT SOME COUNTRIES WERE NOW THINKING OF HAVING A CCD SESSION ON CTB IN EARLY JANUARY 1979 AND DELAYING THE CONVENING OF CD UNTIL THE END OF THAT MONTH. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, SHE SAID, WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE AT LEAST TO

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BEGIN MULTILATERAL CONSIDERATION OF A CTB WITHOUT FRENCH PARTICIPATION. FISHER EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A PROCEDURE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ONE SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY ASSUME THAT THE FRENCH WOULD SEEK TO OBSTRUCT CTB IN CD, SINCE THEY MIGHT WELL MERELY TAKE A PASSIVE POSTURE OF NONINVOLVEMENT. THORSSON PERSISTED, HOWEVER, AND SAID SHE PLANNED TO COME TO WASHINGTON DURING

UNGA TO DISCUSS THE CTB ISSUE WITH ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE.

2. THORSSON ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT THE SELECTION OF ADDITIONAL CD MEMBERS. STRESSING THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN SETTLED YET, FISHER BRIEFLY REVIEWED THE SITUATION AND NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT CONSENSUS SEEMED TO BE EMERGING IN FAVOR OF AUSTRALIA, VENEZUELA, AND ALGERIA, THAT THE US WOULD INSIST ON AN ADDITIONAL NATO MEMBER, AND THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN PUSHING CUBA. THORSSON OBSERVED THAT, WHILE GREATLY INTERESTED IN THE ISSUE OF ADDITIONAL CD MEMBERS, SWEDEN HAD DECIDED NOT TO ENGAGE ITSELF ACTIVELY IN IT BECAUSE THE IDEA OF ROTATING NORDIC MEMBERSHIP HAD BEEN BROACHED. SHE EXPRESSED CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT IF CUBA WERE INCLUDED IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INSIST ON MEMBERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP AND THUS SERIOUSLY IMPAIR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THAT GROUP. IN THIS CONNECTION, SHE NOTED THAT IN CCD THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP HAD ALWAYS ACTED UNANIMOUSLY. AS REGARDS INCLUSION IN CD OF AN ADDITIONAL EUROPEAN NEUTRAL, THORSSON MADE DELPHIC REMARK THAT "SWEDEN IS A NORDIC COUNTRY, AND WE ARE FRIENDS OF AUSTRIA." VANDEN HEUVEL

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